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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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31

1 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Although heavy enemy pressure continued on all fronts, the only substantial enemy advances were in the southern area in the vicinity of Chinju. Enemy forces are reported to have occupied Namhae Island off the southern coast. It is estimated that heaviest North Korean pressure will continue to be in the Chinju area.

Sector Reports

Two North Korean regiments forced elements of the US Nineteenth Regimental Combat Team to withdraw from Chinju. The enemy then established a road block six miles south of Chinju on the road to Pusan. Enemy troops from the vicinity of Hadong, reportedly numbering 1,000, were moved south to the island of Narhae. Near Ewonbin, above Chinju, a strong enemy force attacked the Seventeenth ROK Regiment.

In the west sector two enemy battalions attempted to move north along the Kochang-Kumchon road, but were forced to withdraw. Six miles east of Hwanggan, the US First Cavalry Division has been under heavy pressure and limited penetrations on its right or north flank have been effected.

In the east sector, the ROK First and Sixth Divisions have continued to hold the line west and north of Hanchang. Six miles east of Yechon, the lines of communication of the ROK Capital Division have been threatened by an enemy roadblock. Above Andong, the ROK Eighth Division has been subjected to light mortar fire.

The ROK Third Division, south of Yongdok on the east coast, has continued heavy attacks against the enemy, but no advances have been reported.

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The Ninth RCT of the US Second Infantry Division has landed a substantial portion of its troops and equipment at Pusan.

Estimated enemy casualties to 30 July number 37,597; the UN casualties, including non-battle, total 6,572.

UN naval forces bombarded the east coast and engaged in blockade patrols on the west coast.

II. Other Developments

The South Korean National Assembly, meeting in Taegu, has passed all eight emergency laws proposed by the Government providing budgetary, legal and economic measures for the period of the crisis. During the current session, scheduled to adjourn today, an average of 120 of the 210 members have been present. After adjournment, the majority of the members plan to go to Pusan, establish a "liaison office", and rally support for the Government.

On 30 July the United Nations Commission on Korea (UNCOK) held the first of several planned meetings in Taegu for the purpose of spreading information to the Korean people and bolstering their morale. In their speechos, UNCOK representatives emphasized North Korea's history of non-cooperation with UNCOK in its unification efforts and described the international military efforts now being undertaken by the UN for Korea.

A possible but inconclusive indication of preparations for the movement of foreign troops into North Korea is contained in a recent field report that a "Supreme Military Committee" consisting of forty Russians, twenty Chinese, and fifty North Korean Army personnel was established in Seoul on 1 July 1950. Because a Chinese Communist Army liaison office has existed in North Korea since 1946 and Soviet advisors have been attached to North Korean GHQ since the People's Army was formed, the report, even if true, does not necessarily indicate any increase in cooperation among Chinese, Russians, and North Koreans.

B. H. HILLEMOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence